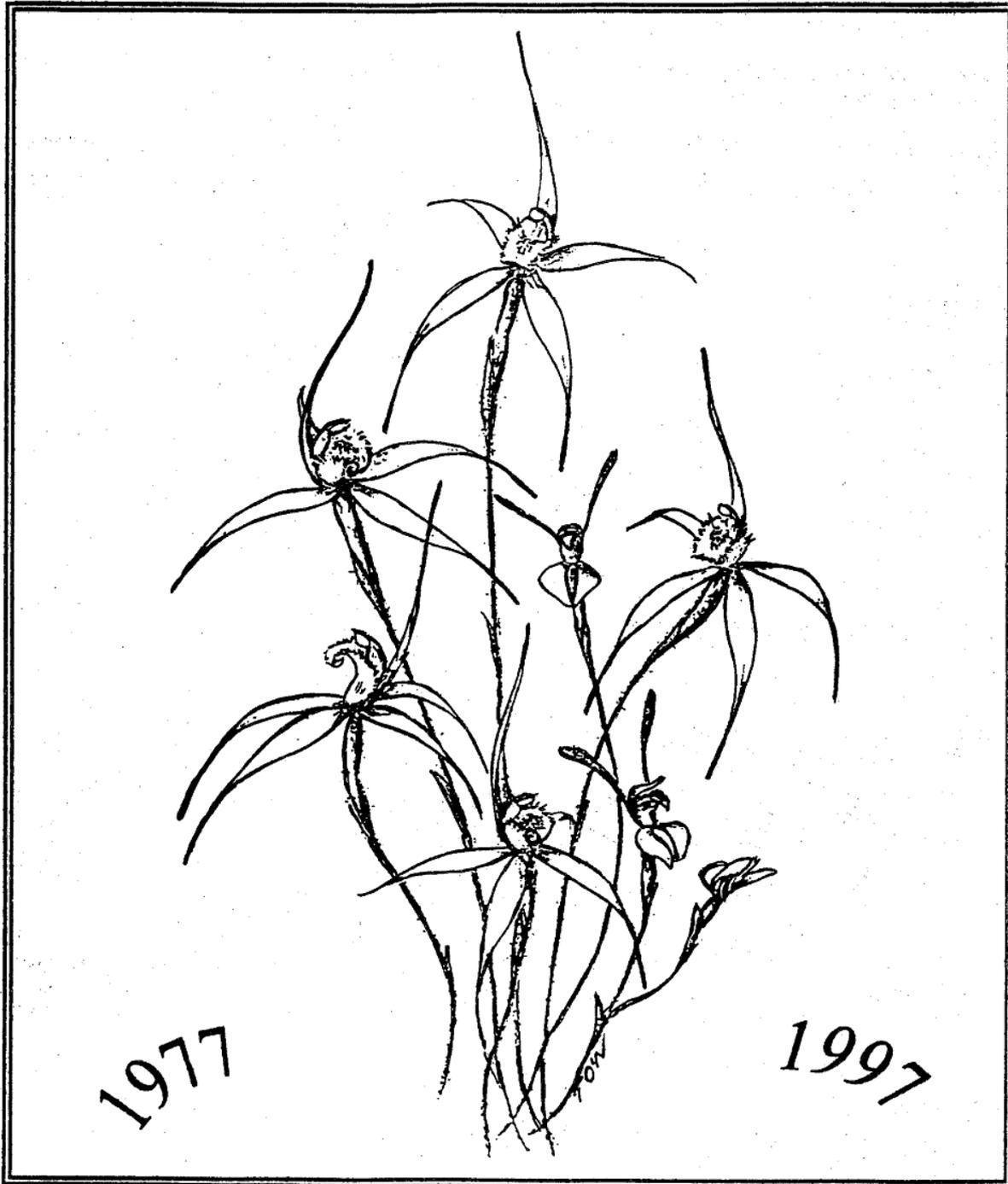


JOURNAL  
of the  
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.



# **NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

PO Box 565,  
UNLEY SA 5061

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of native orchids through cultivation of native orchids, through preservation of naturally-occurring orchid plants and natural habitat.

Except with the documented official representation from the Management Committee of the native orchid society of South Australia, no person is authorised to represent the society on any matter.

All native orchids are protected plants in the wild. Their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY**  
**OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**  
**APRIL 1997 Vol. 21. No. 3 JOURNAL**

APRIL MEETING

Tuesday, 22nd April 8.00 pm: at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. The speaker will be Foundation President Mr Les Nesbitt who will speak on Thelymitra Hybrids.

Les has been hybridising Terrestrials since 1970 and has recently concentrated on Thelymitra.

Doors to the hall will be open at 7.15 pm for those wishing to borrow books from the library or take in items for the trading table.

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DIARY DATES

Apr 20 Scott Conservation Park Field Trip  
 May 2 Annual Dinner at the Buckingham Arms Hotel.  
 Sep 19 - 21 N.O.S.S.A. Spring Show  
 Oct 27 - 28 S.G.A.P. Show & Conference

## COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held at 7.30 pm Monday April 28th at the home of George Nieuwenhoven, Robin Tce Hope Valley

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday 20th April Scott Conservation Park (NOT Scott Creek) Meet at Mt Compass Shops at 11am. We hope to see *Eriochilus* sp, *Genoplesium* sp. and *Leporella fimbriata*.

All Members welcome, bring a lunch, and a camera if you wish.

## ANNUAL N.O.S.S.A. DINNER - MAY 2nd (Friday)

Last Chance. Get your \$10 deposits to Ron Robjohns at the April Meeting

## Special Raffle:

At the April meeting a set of Schleckter Orchids of New Guinea will be raffled. Cost \$1

## WANTED: Conservation Officer:

See Thelma Bridle at the April meeting if you can help.

## WANTED:

Original articles for your Journal! !

## WANTED:

Field Trip Co-ordinators

## STUDENT JUDGES

A series of Native Orchid Judging classes are about to recommence. If anyone wants to join the panel with the aim of becoming an ANOS judge in two years or so, please let Les Nesbitt know. Classes are held on Saturday mornings at Les's place 18 Cambridge St, Vale Park. Classes start at 9.30am, finish at 11.30am and are held once per month from approx May to October.

Students are expected to do some homework and to assist the judges at meetings and the Spring Show. To become an ANOS judge at the end of the course, students have to pass a written exam and a practical judging exercise.

#### ON THE BENCH

Terrestrials: *Genoplesium rufum* (2), *Pterostylis revoluta*, *Eriochilus cucullatus*, *Bulbophyllum schillerianum*.

Epiphytes: *Cymbidium canaliculatum*, *Dendrobium bigibbum*, *D. Minigirl* x *canaliculatum*, *D. antennatum*, *D. Hilda Poxon*, *D. Kenny Green*, *Dockrillia cucumerinum*, *Sarcochilus ceciliae*. There were also various hybrids between Aussie and overseas *Dendrobium*.

The *Genoplesium rufum* were from the Lucindale rescue dig two years ago.

#### POPULAR VOTE

This was not held due to time constraints. Certificates were awarded for the February Popular vote.

Terrestrials *Spiranthes sinensis* from Black Hill

Epiphytes *Cymbidium canaliculatum* grown by Don & Bubs Wells

#### JUDGING RESULTS:

Epiphytes: Species:

*Dendrobium bigibbum* grown by George Nieuwenhoven

Hybrid: *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon Grown by Les Burgess

Terrestrial Species:

*Pterostylis revoluta* grown by Les Nesbitt

Hybrid: none benched

Plant Of The Night: *Pterostylis revoluta*

#### MARCH MEETING

This was N.O.S.S.A.'s 20th Anniversary. Most past Presidents were present, ie Les Nesbitt (Foundation President), Peter Hornsby, Gerry Carne, George Nieuwenhoven, Reg Shooter, Bob Bates and Bill Dear.

Some twenty Foundation Members were present. A huge birthday cake made and decorated by Mrs Carne was displayed and later eaten.

Special guest speaker, Mrs Helen Richards representing ANOS Victoria and the Australian Orchid Foundation spoke on the History and Function of the AOF.

Summary: The AOF was formed in the 1970's by Gerald McCraith and Herman Slade to cover the following aspects - Orchid recognition, cultivation, research, education, conservation. It funds up to 20 projects at a time and all reports are available from the AOF. Helen showed slides of early AOF events as well as joint NOSSA/ANOS Victoria activities! She presented a celebratory card to NOSSA with numerous ANOS Victoria members signatures and donated 20 raffle prizes. Thank you and well done Helen! !

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Retiring President Gerry Carne had life membership bestowed. Since joining N.O.S.S.A. in 1986 Canadian born Gerry has been President (twice), Vice President, Journal Editor, Conference Chairman and committee member as well as supporting the Journal with frequent articles, a field trip stalwart, supporter of conservation, host of numerous committee meetings etc.

This honour was delivered by retiring Treasurer Ron Robjohns himself a Life Member.

#### 'GROWING' - IN LIGHTER VEIN

by DUSTY O'NEILL

I was born and bred in the 'bush' and when at a N.O.S.S.A. show I was transfixed - shocked, amazed and delighted.

I obtained three pots of 'easy to grow' *Pterostylis* from my next show and cultivation notes to study. Repotting time came, and generous help from a lady member/grower saw me with my three pots increased to seven. Her encouragement gave me the confidence to submit my first Tuber Bank order. I know how much this help and support meant to me.

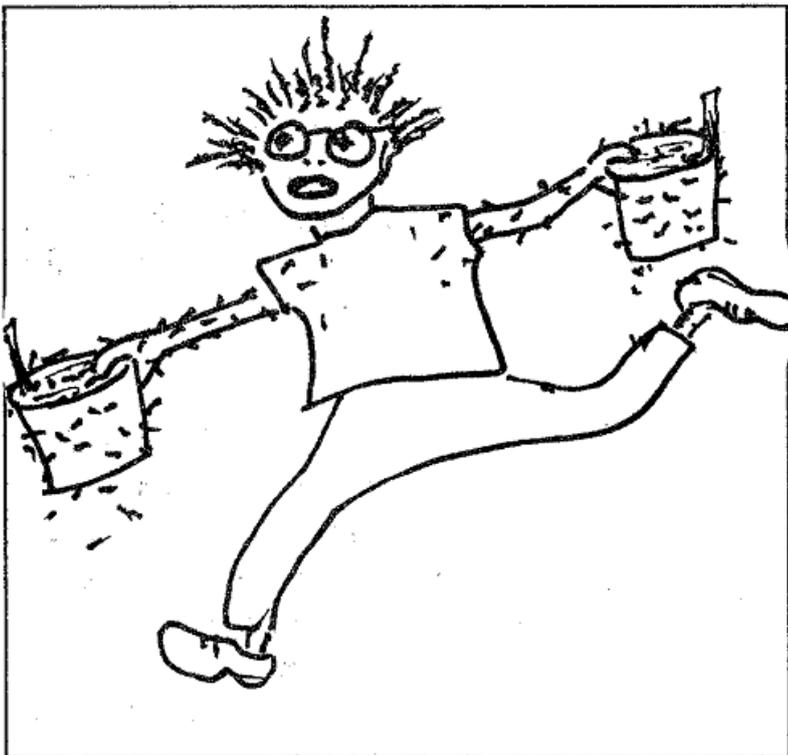
Alas! A little black cloud appeared quite suddenly. Little two year old grandson, within four blinks of an eyelid, when my back was turned for the same four blinks of an eyelid, upended my seven precious pots into one lovely heap and was mixing, mixing. Silently I carried him inside. "Here is YOUR Grandson" to husband who quizzically raised one eyebrow as I returned to the disaster area to sort, pot and label seven pots '*Pterostylis* MIXED'

The obvious was a lock-up shade house. We chose one, too low, too small. We placed it too close to the pool and too close in the corner. Summer came and only Epiphytes were left on the end bench. 'Husband, please help me jiggle the shade house along a

metre?' so, jiggle, jiggle, grunt, jiggle - yes - that's it. And CRASH! ! The bench legs folded, the Epiphytes went down and over, out and across. Calmly - "Don't worry, they'll be O.K." she says, sneaking a peek at smashed canes and smashed pots, generously sprinkled with pine bark.

Another season, another happening. I had stored the *Pterostylis caulines* away in a cupboard. When I checked them, forty thousand ants charged. Next second and I was running around the corner of the house, pot in each hand and ants cavorting to the armpits. Yelling to husband, "Quickly, urgent, hurry please, a large container filled with water. Ow! Ouch! Oh, how I hate ants. Lots of pots soaking - forty thousand ants swimming.

Next year the ants decided to squat and multiply in the folded covering placed over the soil mix. This time I went flapping around the corner of the house with a large square of plastic and eighty thousand ants charging. Spread the plastic. Spray, spray the ants. I sneeze, cough and choke. Eighty thousand ants writhe, cough and kick.



This year the *Pterostylis caulines* again. I brought them out from summer storage with promising spears displayed. They were placed into a tray on the washing trolley in chosen micro climate. Yes, they were looking good, until, one day just as I turned my back, the trolley wheel slipped into a hole. All pots (seven again) tumbled forth - out, over and down. Clunk, grunk and plunk. SILENCE! Quietly, pretending calm, hoping husband doesn't discover latest clown act, I increase the total cauline pots with an additional three pots labelled - '*Pterostylis caulines* - MIXED'. Of course those promising shooting spears, being grossly offended, converted to rosettes.

Now that I have an additional shade house and so much experience (hum?! ) what can possibly happen now? Am I alone in the circus field? Are there others out there? Would they please relate their experiences and be as one, not afraid to cause a smile or is it a snigger?

## THE ORCHIDS OF "KOOROO"

Extracted from the A.N.O.S. Victorian group bulletin, Feb., 1997

by COLIN BOWER

Jill and I and our young son Daniel moved to Kooroo in 1990 from the regional city of Orange in the Central West of New South Wales. Prior to moving, both Jill and I had enjoyed visiting the bush, going camping and observing nature. However, while I was content to just visit the bush in my spare time, Jill, being a country girl, was not happy

in the 'big smoke' of Orange and wanted to move out of town. The opportunity came when we spotted an Advertisement in the Central Western Daily extolling the virtues of a 102 acre bush block at Mullion Creek about 2.3km north of Orange.

We first saw the block in mid-summer. It was hot and dry with that shimmering, parched look the bush has at midday in the summer heat. No bird sang, there were no wildflowers and the overall impression was of a grey, harsh, rather poor patch of scrub. Not a promising start. Nonetheless, there were a few hopeful signs. I counted eight species of eucalypts, a good diversity of trees for an area. And on one of our early visits we found a couple of struggling flower stems of the Hyacinth Orchid, *Dipodium roseum*. As there were no other bush blocks on offer, we signed on the dotted line.

We moved in on April Fool's Day, which proved to be a bad omen. It started raining that very day after a long dry spell and didn't stop for months. Kooroo is at the end of a rough four km long bush track and access became a major problem in wet weather. However, when we weren't extracting vehicles from bogs, or repairing sections of track, we explored our little estate. What we began to find was unexpected and astonishing.

The soaking rains stimulated the emergence of countless thousands of terrestrial orchid leaves, and it soon became clear we had stumbled onto a rich patch of native orchids. For me, as an orchid enthusiast of many year's standing, this was an exciting discovery. Many of the species could be identified by their leaves but, as this was not possible for others, there followed a period of great anticipation through the bleak, wet winter as we waited to see what spring would bring.

We were not to be disappointed; the first flowers appeared in late winter and a succession of orchids flowered in profusion through spring, finally petering out in late November. Overall, on our block, we have seen 34 species so far, with an additional five in areas nearby, making Kooroo one of the best orchid locations in the central west. Most species flower in late winter through spring, but a few appear in late summer and autumn. While most of our orchids are fairly widespread common species, there are a few uncommon to rare ones, in which we take a special delight. These include *Caladenia dimorpha*, *C. congesta*, *C. aff. pusilla* and *Pterostylis aff. longifolia*. Species which are rare in the Central West of New South Wales, but not necessarily elsewhere include *Caladenia clavigera* and *Prasophyllum odoratum*. Although we have yet to find it on Kooroo, *Caladenia filamentosa* grows close by and we make a special point of seeing it every spring.

Kooroo and environs are especially rich in *Caladenia* species and these make a spectacular display in the open forest. There are four pink species, *C. fuscata*, *C. carnea*, *C. aff. pusilla* and *C. congesta*, and three white ones, *C. dimorpha*, *C. gracilis* and *C. cucullata* which flower in the order given, *Caladenia dimorpha* is an impressive large species related to *C. praecox* and seems to be restricted to the area between Lithgow and Mullion Creek. There are also four species of spider *Caladenia*, *C. phaeoclavia*, *C. tentaculata*, *C. clavigera* and *C. filamentosa*. The latter is a beautiful wine red colour, sometimes having a white labellum with red markings. The first *Caladenia* to flower each spring is the diminutive *C. caerulea*, which may flower in such profusion that it dots the open north-facing slopes and ridges with blue.

Although not a *Caladenia*, the similar looking *Glossodia major* is always a special treat with its large, abundant purple flowers.

Other orchids of note are some of the greenhoods (*Pterostylis*). *Pterostylis* aff. *longifolia* appears to be an undescribed species confined to parts of the New South Wales Central West and is not common. *Pterostylis reflexa* is a handsome autumn-flowering species, confined to the central eastern parts of New South Wales. *Pterostylis truncata* is very rare in Victoria, where it is the subject of recovery plans. While there is not much of it near Kooroo, it is not uncommon on parts of the Central Tablelands and the Southern Highlands of New South Wales.

In the first year, Jill, Daniel and I spent a great deal of time wandering the bush discovering its orchid delights. Daniel was only two, but he soon learned to get his tongue around such orchid names as *Glossodia major* and *Caladenia cucullata*, much to the amazement of the members of the local Field Naturalists Society! Although we have been on Kooroo for several years now, we still look forward to the marvellous floral display put on by the orchids each spring and wonder about our good fortune in finding such a special patch of scrub.

A list of the orchids of Kooroo follows:

*Acianthus collinus*, *A. exsertus*, *Caladenia caerulea*, *C. carnea*, *C. clavigera*, *C. congesta*, *C. cucullata*, *C. dimorpha*, *C. filamentosa*, *C. fuscata*, *C. gracilis*, *C. phaeoclavia*, *C. aft. pusilla*, *C. tentaculata*, *Calochilus paludosus*, *C. robertsonii*, *Chiloglottis trapeziformis*, *Corybas incurvus*, *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, *Dipodium roseum*, *Diuris pardina*, *D. sulphurea*, *Eriochilus cucullatus*, *Genoplesium rufum*, *Glossodia major*, *Lyperanthus suaveolens*, *Microtis parviflora*, *Prasophyllum odoratum* *Pterostylis bicolor*, *P. aff. longifolia*, *P. nana*, *P. aff. parviflora*, *P. reflexa*, *P. revoluta*, *P. truncata*, *Thelymitra carnea*, *T. ixioides*, *T. megalyptra*, *T. pauciflora*.

#### OCCURRENCE OF THE STH AFRICAN ORCHID *MONADENIA BRACTEATA* IN VICTORIA

by GARRY BACKHOUSE

*Extracted from A.N.O.S. Victoria group bulletin, March, 1997*

Well, it has finally happened - the South African orchid *Monadenia bracteata* has made it to Victoria, in fact the species appears to have been established in the wild here since at least 1991, but its presence wasn't confirmed until late 1995. During 1996 two additional populations were confirmed. The orchid has been established in Western Australia since the 1940's and in South Australia since the 1980's, so it was possibly only a matter of time before it turned up in Victoria.

*Monadenia* is currently known at three sites; near Hurstbridge, north-east of Melbourne, Bacchus Marsh to the west, and near Nelson in far south-western Victoria. Flowering plants were first noticed on a highly eroded hillside near Bacchus Marsh and on a slashed firebreak near Nelson in 1991, but although their distinctive appearance attracted attention, they were not recognised as *Monadenia* then. In 1995 two plants were found at Hurstbridge and identified as *Monadenia*, then the plants at Bacchus Marsh and Nelson were finally identified. *Monadenia* can be easily recognised by the thick, fleshy stem with numerous narrow leaves decreasing in size up the stem and

numerous (50<sup>+</sup>) small brownish spurred flowers with the dorsal sepal and petals forming a galea. Each flower has a small sheathing bract. *Monadenia* appears to be self-pollinating. The species is photographed in *Native Orchids of Australia* (D. Jones), *Orchids of South Australia* (B. Bates & J. Weber), *Orchids of South-West Australia* (N. Hoffman & A. Brown) and illustrated in *Orchids of Australia* (W. Nicholls).

The environmental impact of its establishment is not certain. *Monadenia* seems to be a coloniser of disturbed sites and will establish on roadsides, eroded soils and farm paddocks, even growing in amongst pasture grasses which few native orchids will do. It also invades native plant communities, particularly open heathlands but does not seem to establish well in dense heathlands. It can probably establish successfully after bushfires, but what happens as native vegetation regenerates is not known.

Just how the species became established in Victoria is not clear, and its occurrence at three widely-separated localities is of interest. *Monadenia* occurs in the far south-east of South Australia, and transfer to the Nelson site by people or machinery is the most likely cause. The other two occurrences are not as easily explained. Orchid seed is very fine and can be spread large distances by wind, rain and animal (or human) vectors. I remember a plant commentary by Geoff Carr several years ago, when a member had benched cultivated plants of *Monadenia* at a club meeting. Geoff commented on the weed status of the species and urged anyone growing it to remove flower heads before pollination and seed set, to reduce the likelihood of *Monadenia* escaping and establishing in the wild. Whether or not the species has established from cultivated plants or found its own way here is not known. What seems highly likely is that *Monadenia bracteata* is now another of the over 1200 species of exotic plants now established in the wild in Victoria.

Efforts are being made to eradicate all infestations. Almost 100 flowering plants were destroyed from the Bacchus Marsh site, and both Hurstbridge plants were removed. About 300 flowering plants were removed from the Nelson colony and follow up eradication will continue for several years yet. However, given the three widely disjunct occurrences it is highly likely the *Monadenia* occurs elsewhere in Victoria. Keep a look out for the species flowering during late spring (November is the peak flowering month). If you do find any plants report the infestation to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

**Roy Hargreaves OAM**



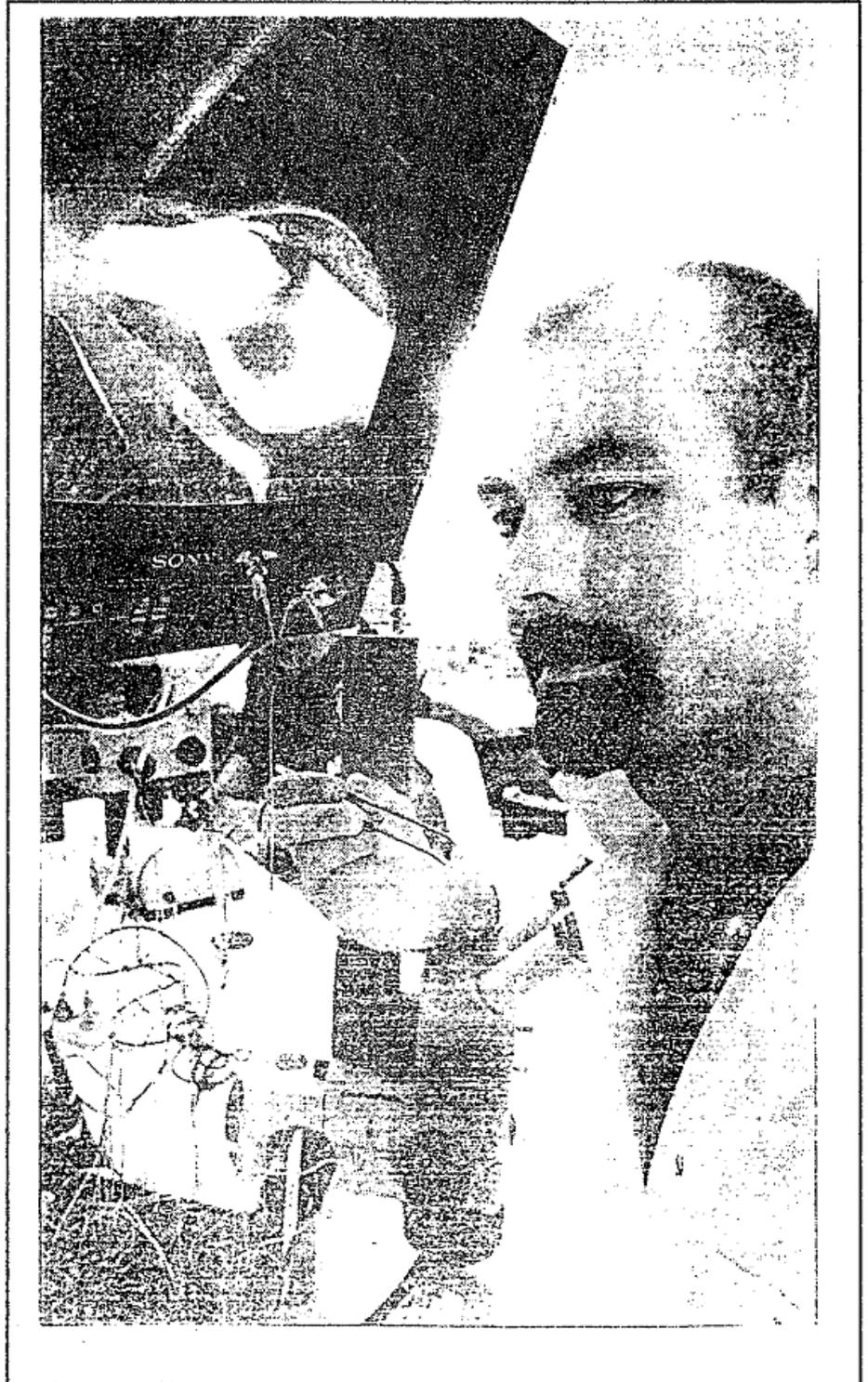
G.E. Carne

(Received From Winsome & Les Mchugh)

WORLD-CLASS research at a Perth laboratory has saved an orchid threatened with extinction. State of the art cloning techniques were used at Kings Park Research Laboratory to make clones of a plant rediscovered in the Darling Range last year.

According to Andrew Barry, who designed the techniques to save the orchid, the same method might be used to save other endangered plant species. "Before this you would have to propagate the plant from seed, which can take up to four years" he said. Using tissue culture cloning, we can take just one cell from a plant and use it to make five new ones which will flower within one year. This is especially useful for plants which are so rare there may only be one or two in existence."

The plant known as the tall donkey orchid, usually flowers only after a fire. It was spotted in flower last year for the first time for more than five years. Mr Batty took tissue samples to the laboratory and painstakingly extracted the genetic material necessary for the cloning process. He was so successful that the new seedlings were flowering within a year - a world first as far as researchers at the Kings Park Laboratory know. If all goes well, the cloned orchids could be reintroduced to the bush in another year.



The Kings Park Research

Laboratory, sponsored by a \$250,000 Western Power grant, is a world leader in saving rare species and has, in refrigerators or liquid nitrogen, more than 100 species that are rare or extinct in the wild. These include two tiny grafts from W.A.'s rarest gum tree and taken from the only tree known in the wild. Mr Batty is doing his PhD into the preservation of endangered orchids.

## AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID HYBRID REGISTRATIONS

New registrations from the Royal Horticultural Society May to October 1996 registrations  
(Reprinted from the Orchadian).

NAME	PARENTAGE	REGISTERED BY
Dendrobium		
Alice Frampton	X gracillimurn x Hot Shot	G. Rex (V. Frampton)
Autumn	Aussie Victory x Red River N. Finch	
Balranald	jonesii x Gracious Cascades	W.T. Upton
Bellinger Valley	Hilda Poxon x Gai Ellen	N. Mitchell
Class	Lorikeet x Socio-kingianum,	N. Finch (D. Butler)
Darlington Gem	Aussie Ira x tetragonum	H. A. Wilson
Darlington Glory	Aussie Ira x Golden Glory	H.A. Wilson
Darlington Jewel	Nunkumbil x Aussie Ira	H.A. Wilson
Darlington Parish	Aussie Ira x gracillimum	H.A. Wilson
Darlington Quest	Aussie Ira x Aussie Quest	H.A. Wilson
Elegant Autumn	bigibbum x Ellen	W.T. Upton
Elegant Charm	Andrew Upton x speciosum	W. T. Upton
Elegant Flame	Elegant Autumn x speciosum	W.T. Upton
Elegant Gem	White Gem x speciosum	W.T. Upton
Enzed Onward	Jombock x Hilda Poxon	D. Burgess
Gaudy	Brinawa Charm x Hilda Poxon	N. Finch
Green Gem	Aussie Cascade x striolatum	His & Hers (O/U)
Hera	bigibbum x Zeus	R. Angus (K. Russell)
Hot Pink	Jombock x bigibbum	W.T. Upton
Intense	Lorikeet x Zip	N. Finch (D. Butler)
Jamie's Falcon	Jamie Upton x falcorostrum	W.T. Upton
Jesmond Gold	Golden Glory x speciosum	J. Purvis
Liquid Sunshine	canaliculatum x jonesii	W.T. Upton
Lusty	Red River x Delicate Ellen	N. Finch
Memoria Doreen Sprott	Joy Wray x Debra Wray	S. Wray
Myponga	Nugget x kingianum	Adelaide
Philip Hill	Aussie Ira x Red River	S.G. Hill
Rexy's Charm	Zeppelin x Aussie Starlight	G. Rex
Rexy's Dawn	affine x Minnie	G. Rex
Rexy's Downfall	Candice x tetragonum	G. Rex
Rexy's Dream	discolor x David Baver	G. Rex
Rexy's Gem	Gloucester Gem x canaliculatum	G. Rex
Rexy's Lady	Suzanne x Phil Deane	G. Rex
Rexy's Limelight	johannis x Phil Deane	G. Rex
Rexy's Mate	X gracilimum x Hilda Poxon	G. Rex
Rexy's Miss	Margie Gem x Mini Pearl	G. Rex
Rexy's Mistake	Johulatum x bigibbum	G. Rex
Rexy's Pride	agrostophyllum x falcorostrum	G. Rex
Rexy's Star	canaliculatum x Verhinha	G. Rex

..... *To be continued in May Journal*